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Docket No. 55802

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

Watkins et al.

SERIAL NO.:

09/840,014

GROUP:

1614

FIILED:

April 19, 2001

FOR:

METHODS FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF

GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS

THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS WASHINGTON, DC 20231

SIR:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice claim 8-12, 21-23, 26-28, 30-34, 36-41, 45-48, 50 and 52.

Please amend the following claims.

The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the amount of the (amended) 4. administered compound is sufficient to increase neuronal cyclic guanosine 3'-monophosphate (cGMP) levels as measured by a standard cGMP assay.

The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the gastrointestinal disorder is (amended) 5. characterized by hypomotility or hypermotility in at least one of the small intestine, large intestine, colon, esophagus or stomach.

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